

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Nursing Education Incentive Program

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Proposals Due: July 31, 2013

Selection Announcement: September 10, 2013

Funding Available: Up to \$150,000 per campus (\$1 million total)

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RFP Summary

The state of Missouri has established, through legislative action and appropriation of funds, the “Nursing Education Incentive Program” within the Missouri Department of Higher Education in order to increase the physical and educational capacity of nursing education programs in Missouri.

The purpose of this document is to solicit grant proposals from eligible institutions of higher education. The following information describes the criteria by which the State Board of Nursing, in consultation with the Department of Higher Education, will select among grant applications in making awards.

Qualifying Institutional Criteria for Grant Awards (an institution must meet each of these criteria in order for their proposal to be considered)

1. Missouri institution of higher education (sponsoring institution) offering a program of professional nursing.
2. The sponsoring institution shall be accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.
3. Request for grants may not exceed \$150,000 per campus per year.
4. Explicit plan for maintaining investment following the expiration of the grant, if applicable.

In addition, for institutions applying for a 2013 grant that received grant funding during the 2012 incentive cycle, a detailed report of progress made since receipt of 2012 funding must be provided. Reports will be scored on a 15-point scale for progress consistent with their 2012 proposal. Institutions must score 13 out of 15 in order to be eligible to apply for a 2013 grant.

5. 2012 Grant Evaluation – 15 possible points

- a. Fidelity to work plan (10 points): outline the major grant-related activities performed subsequent to receipt of the grant. Describe how these activities are consistent with the proposed activities, or explain how and why they are different.
- b. Fidelity to budget (5 points): outline the expenditures made with 2012 grant money and describe how these expenditures are consistent with the proposed budget, or explain how and why they are different.

Qualifying Program Criteria for Grant Awards (a nursing program must meet each of these criteria in order for the proposal to be considered)

1. Official NCLEX-RN pass rates consistently greater than or equal to 80%, if applicable.
2. Record of consistently meeting requirements for full approval by the Missouri State Board of Nursing, if applicable.
3. Student graduation rates greater than or equal to 80%. Graduation rate shall mean the percent of first time students who complete their program within 150% of the normal time to completion.
4. Job placement rates greater than or equal to 90%. Job placement rate shall mean the percent of program graduates (less those continuing their education) who have secured employment in the nursing field within six (6) months of graduation.

Categories and Areas of Need

- 1) Institutions that have been unable to admit qualified applicants to nursing programs because of a lack of physical or educational capacity.
- 2) Institutions whose graduates can be shown to be likely to serve in health professional shortage areas of Missouri. Information on shortage areas can be found through the US Department of Health and Human Services at <http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/HPSASearch.aspx> or through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at

http://health.mo.gov/living/families/primarycare/primo/pdf/Primo_Newsletter_March_2010.pdf.

Grant Focus – Increase in faculty resources/increase in student capacity

Grant proposals should focus on one or more of the following areas of expenditures:

1. Additional faculty positions
2. Development of accelerated graduate nursing programs with focus on expansion of faculty resources
3. Scholarships or traineeships for faculty development with commitment to teach in a Missouri school of nursing for a minimum of 3 years after degree completion
4. Creation of faculty salary/benefit packages that are market competitive to recruit and retain highly qualified faculty for theory/clinical teaching
5. Expansion of clinical placement through development of new clinical partnerships
6. Use of technology resources designed to augment instruction

Grant applications shall:

1. State their student admissions/progression requirements;
 2. Indicate for each of the past three years, how many applicants for admission that met those requirements were denied admission due to a lack of capacity;
 3. Indicate how many faculty positions are currently vacant and the duration of any such vacancy; and, if applicable
 4. Provide any evidence that would indicate that additional graduates will serve geographically underserved areas of the state.
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Following is a summary of required proposal content and scoring values assigned to each category for the 2013 selection process. Proposal lengths should not exceed ten (10) pages; no more than two (2) attachments should be submitted. A one-page abstract/proposal summary should be included.

OVERVIEW/ABSTRACT – 30 possible points

This section should address the following items:

What are the institution's admissions/progression requirements for the nursing program?

- Scoring (10 points): Admission/progression requirements appropriate for level of education

How many students meeting those qualifications have been denied admission over the past three years?

- Scoring (10 points): Number of qualified applicants denied admission \geq 25% of current annual enrollment

What are the current limitations on the existing program's ability to increase the number of qualified applicants being admitted to the program and graduating from the program?

- Scoring (10 points): Detailed account of major capacity barriers

OBJECTIVES – 30 possible points

This section should address the following items:

What specific areas of the nursing program are the top priorities for additional investment?

- Scoring (15 points): Complete alignment of top priorities with grant focus

How, specifically, are additional investments likely to impact health professions shortages in Missouri?

- Scoring (15 points): Major projected impact on shortage of health professions in Missouri

WORKPLAN – 25 possible points

This section should:

Outline the major activities to be performed with grant funding and describe how the proposed activities address the existing limitations in the nursing program.

- Scoring (25 points): Work plan is complete and readiness to implement is demonstrated

BUDGET – 15 possible points

The budget should detail the institution's plans for spending the grant. Please also include a brief narrative that summarizes the costs of the grant activities. This section must also include an explanation of how investments or benefits of the grant will be maintained after the initial funding is utilized.

- Scoring (5 points): Fully developed budget plan related to use of grant funding

- Scoring (5 points): Detailed account of projected cost related to each grant activity
- Scoring (5 points): Evidence related to sustainability of investments after grant funding

SELECTION PROCESS

All proposals must be received at the Department of Higher Education Offices by 5:00 pm on July 31, 2013. Proposals may be sent by electronic or other means.

The Education Committee of the State Board of Nursing will, in consultation with the Department of Higher Education, review and score the proposals based on the criteria outlined above and make awards accordingly to eligible institutions.
